

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/UNAPPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting May 18, 2009

Due to lack of quorum, meeting was not officially called to order, but began at at 7:06p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Frank Montagna, Mary Lou Stamp, Suzanne Lewis

Commissioners Absent: Joe Capucci, Al Centone, Susan Puzycki, Richard Wilson

Staff Present : Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Victor Palma, Superintendent of Public Works & Field Operations

Carla Pelliccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Due to lack of quorum, no motion could be made to accept the Minutes of March 16, 2009 Approval of these minutes will added to next meeting's agenda.

III. Correspondence:

Mr. Sorkin had received an application from North Haven Girls Softball League. He will discuss this during the Director's report.

IV. Director's Report:

Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation

Recreation:

The Annual Easter event took place on Saturday April 4th. The event was well attended and everyone had a great time. The co-sponsor for this event was McDonald's on Washington Ave. Also Ellen Gomes and Toni Fazio from Calcagni Real Estate volunteered for the 13th year as our judges for the Easter Bonnet and Top hat contests.

The 16th Annual Fishing Derby took place on Saturday, May 2, 2009 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Close to 200 children registered for this event. The event was very successful again this year. The rain ended right before the whistle blew. The following local businesses sponsored the event: McDonald's on Washington Ave., Dunkin Donuts of Washington Ave., Scotty's Breakfast Connection, North Haven Public Works Department and Union, Dairy Queen of Whitney Ave., Double J Sound, Uncle B's Bait and Tackle, J Roos, Antonio's Sub Shop, River House Tavern, Hollywood Video, Guillio's Pizza, North Haven PBA, Barnick's Truck and Equipment and Southern CT Tackle.

Summer registration has begun for both recreation and pool programs.

The adult softball league has begun. There are 31 teams registered in the league. Leagues are on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with make up games scheduled on Tuesdays. The season will conclude at the end of July, weather permitting.

DEP'S Great Park Pursuit: Flyers were made and distributed to all elementary schools and sent to all local papers. Details have been posted on the town website. Flyers were distributed to all commissioners.

The duties of scheduling fields have been divided between the Recreation office and Field Operations. A very positive meeting took place between both departments. Field Operations will continue to do the scheduling, Recreation will handle registration and issues regarding permits. Recreation staff will be sending out letters and permitting for Fields Use this fall. Mr. Sorkin emphasized that this is a trial and will determine later if this process worked for all parties involved. If anything needs to be changed, the two groups will reconvene and make the appropriate changes.

Pool and Recreation Center maintenance has been scheduled. The pool will be closed August 3- 8. The Recreation Center will be closed for programs and meetings August 10-21. The gym floor will be refinished on September 3rd and 4th.

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Max Sinoway Baseball Opening Day for the 2009 season took place on April 25, 2009 at Montowese Fields 1-4 and was a success. The Department of Public Works has made Quinipiack Valley Health District related improvements at Montowese.

The North Haven Soccer Club and the North Haven Lacrosse Club met on April 2, 2009 to discuss how each organization could work together in using each other's fields. Each side presented ideas and had reached some agreements for exchanged usage of their fields.

The Department of Public Works had suggested that the Lacrosse Club look at the North Haven Fairgrounds as a possible site to use, although DPW does not maintain this field. The Lacrosse Club was successful in working out an agreement with the Fairgrounds to use their field.

Recreation center staff will be sending out the letters and permitting for Fields Use this Fall while the Department of Public Works continue to schedule the fields.

Preparation for the Memorial Day Parade and the Cow Plop (scheduled for May 23, 2009) continues. The Cow Plop will take place on the Parks and Recreation Field. The Town Green and central block areas are currently being prepared by Public Works staff. Mulch has been put down throughout the Green. Mr. Palma and Ms. Sadosky complimented Public Works members Antonio and Mike who have done a great job on the Town Green, and even received a complimentary call regarding the work ethic of these employees.

North Haven Girls Softball Opening Day will take place on May 30, 2009 at the Gateway Complex Fields. Invitations were sent out by the organization.

May Market scheduled for the Town Green on May 9, 2009 was relocated indoors to the Church and had proven to be quite successful.

The Elks Club Flag Ceremony has been scheduled for June 13, 2009 at 10:00am on the Town Green.

All Summer season baseball (Max Sinoway, American Legion, Babe Ruth, North Haven Girls), lacrosse and soccer have been scheduled for Summer games (through July 28th). The Recreation Department staff are currently accepting sign ups for July baseball camps.

The North Haven Youth Basketball organization would like to expand their program from playing just indoors to also playing outdoors (Memorial Basketball Court). They would like to have children in Grades 3 and 4 play during the months of June, July and August on Sundays only.

The issue that exists is that the courts they are looking at as an option to play on are not up to speed; several cracks exist. Mr. Palma stated that they will do their best to repair the cracks and make the surface playable, but due to budget constraints for this fiscal year, these courts are unable to be resurfaced. Mr. Palma had suggested the organization host a fundraiser in order to collect funds to resurface the courts. Ms. Lewis also mentioned that liability issues would also exist by bringing an indoor league from indoors to outdoors.

With the closure of the Senior Center due to renovations, usage of the two bocce courts at 189 Pool Rd. has also been halted. Therefore 2 bocce courts have been made at Carina Park. The courts have been inspected and the seniors are happy.

V. Old Business:

Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation

North Haven Girls Softball League

North Haven Girls Softball League has submitted their application requesting funding in the amount of \$2,500 for uniforms and supplies. Copies of this application were sent to all commissioners prior to the meeting for their review.

Mr. Sorkin recommended that \$1,500 be given to the North Haven Girls Softball League for this year. Due to lack of quorum, this recommendation could not be voted on, but will be voted on at the next meeting. Since the next Commission meeting is not scheduled until September, and the North Haven Girls Softball League season will be over by then, Ms. Stamp will contact the Commissioners and request a vote on this recommendation remotely. Ms. Stamp will work with Carla Pelliccio in order to coordinate this. Ms. Stamp stated that if necessary, a meeting can be called for June to discuss this.

In light of this stipend request, Mr. Sorkin stated that perhaps in the future the Commission could look at the protocol has to how the organizations are awarded. He posed the question as to whether the budget be considered. Ms. Stamp stated that reviewing each organization's budget may not be ideal, but the commission can make recommendations based upon what the organization has indicated the funding will be used for. Ms. Lewis emphasized that however the means for reviewing the applications should remain consistent.

Related to the North Haven Girls Softball League was the concern surrounding the fact that a letter was sent to the Commission by American Stitch and Print. The letter indicated that the league did not choose American Stitch and Print as the uniform vendor for this organization. As a 7-year vendor for this organization, American Stitch and Print wanted to find out why they were not selected as this year's vendor. In order to get clarification regarding the league's decision, Mr. Sorkin contacted Dave Paturzo, President of the North Haven Girls Softball League. Mr. Paturzo stated that they have had some customer service issues with the company including the shirts not being ready when they needed them. This concern with American Stitch and Print gave them reason to seek out another vendor.

VI. New Business:

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Signage regarding pets in Town Parks: Two pictures of the two signs that exist on the Town Green were passed around for the commission's review. These signs had already been present on the Green, however brush had been cleared away from the two signs for better visibility. One sign is located on the corner of St. John St. and Church Street, and the other is located at the corner of Trumbull St. and St. John St. One will need to be added to the corner of Trumbull and Church St. The sign reads, "PETS CAN LITTER TOO! HELP KEEP YOUR TOWN GREEN CLEAN!" Mr. Palma has intentions of having signs with similar language posted at the parks in town by mid-fall to winter. It was suggested to modify the sign by replacing the word TOWN GREEN with PARK.

As brought up by Frank Montagna during the last meeting, a town ordinance exists that indicates that dogs must be on leashes when they are in parks, and that owners must pick up after their dogs. Mr. Palma stated that enforcement of the ordinance will be the next issue. Ms. Stamp echoed the point made by Chief DiCarlo about reporting any suspicious activities taking place, that residents must remain vigilant and call in to the Police Department as they see these activities occurring. In regards to the summer concert series, Ms. Lewis also suggested that it would be effective if an announcement is made prior to the performance to remind anyone if they have their pets with them to please make sure they are on a leash. Ms. Stamp commented that this was a great idea and the recommendation will be made as the concert series approaches.

Status of development of rules and regulations for the use of Town Parks: Ms. Sadosky is currently still working on these rules and regulations. She assured the commission that they are close, but not final.

VII. Public Participation:

No public in participation.

VIII. Adjournment:

The meeting ended at 7:48p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, September 21, 2009.